



TOWN HALL
4 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst, MA 01002-2351

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
(413) 259-3040
(413) 259-2410 [Fax]
planning@amherstma.gov

ARTICLE __. Community Preservation Act – Historical Preservation (Amherst Historical Commission)

Proposed Fiscal Year 2012 CPA Historic Preservation Projects

The following draft FY2012 CPA proposals represent the ongoing historic preservation priorities of the Town of Amherst as recommended by the Amherst Historical Commission on December 7, 2010 in implementation of the Amherst Preservation Plan, other historic preservation planning, and assessment of community needs. Funding for historic preservation projects will be sought through Town Meeting appropriations of Community Preservation Act funds, state and other grants, private donations, and Town Meeting appropriation of local tax revenue through the capital budget. This FY 2012 historic preservation budget is a working document and may be subject to change and adjustment.

I. Historic Preservation Capital Projects

Cost

Individual building/site projects:

➤ West Cemetery: Restoration of historic cast iron fencing that surrounds the Dickinson and Cutler family plots	\$50,000
➤ Town Clerk: Archival materials conservation/restoration	\$10,000
➤ Amherst Historical Society & Museum: Structural and feasibility study	\$35,000
➤ North Amherst Community Farm:	
~ Emergency repairs for stabilization of large barn and carriage house	\$15,000
~ Structural evaluation and feasibility study for rehabilitation and adaptive (seasonal) reuse of barn and carriage house	\$10,000
➤ Jones Library:	
~ Chimney restoration (<i>Not yet presented to Commission</i>)	\$113,000
~ Conservation of historic paintings	\$15,000
➤ North Amherst Library rehabilitation:	
~ Foundation stabilization	\$10,000
~ Insulation to preserve collections	\$11,000
➤ Hope Community Church rehabilitation:	
~ Roof	\$26,000
~ Foundation and drainage	\$19,000
➤ 235 East Pleasant Street: Feasibility study for rehabilitation and preservation options of existing farmhouse	\$10,000
➤ Hawthorne house restoration (<i>Not yet presented to Commission</i>)	\$81,000
TOTAL NEW FY2012 PROJECTS	\$405,000

II. Previously-Obligated Funds

Cost

Individual building/site projects:

▪ 575 North East Street compensation (year 5 of 5)	\$25,600
▪ Town Hall masonry (year 3 of 10)	\$28,350
FY 2012 Total	\$458,950

- **West Cemetery: Restoration of historic cast iron fencing that surrounds the Dickinson and Cutler family plots** **\$50,000**
1. Feasibility of the project: The Town has contracted Martha Lyon Landscape Architect to develop bid specifications and provide project oversight. Project is expected to be completed by winter 2011.
 2. Urgency of the project: The historic fencing is in complete disrepair; the Cutler fence has actually been disassembled and stored off site. The Dickinson fence, although standing, continues to deteriorate and rust.
 3. Population(s) to be served by the project: The entire community, especially tourists and historians who celebrate Emily Dickinson by visiting her final resting place and the Emily Dickinson Museum.
 4. Acquisition or preservation of threatened resources: The preservation of West Cemetery is a priority for the Historical Commission, and is the site of ongoing preservation projects. The Cutler family plot is one of a few in the community that retains its cast iron fence, including the gated entry. As an artifact crafted in the mid-late 19th century, the fence is an irreplaceable piece of funerary customs and traditions.
 5. Possibility of multiple sources of funding: No other funding sources at this time.
 6. Complete description of project addressing cost: The project is expected to be completed by one consultant, who will restore both the Dickinson and Cutler fencing. The two fences require a separate approach:
 - ~ Dickinson: remove fencing from site, strip paint, clean metal with sand blasting or other appropriate method, repaint, and mechanically assemble fence on location. \$20,000-\$25,000
 - ~ Cutler: A fair number of pieces from the Cutler fencing is missing and will require the casting of new ones made from molds of existing material. Existing material will be cleaned to remove rust, painted, and assembled on site with appropriate material and fastening. \$40,000-\$55,000
 7. Documentation: Please see attached images
 8. Projected timeline for initiation and completion of project: Project expected to take 4-6 months from time of consultant selection; completed by winter 2011.
 9. Expectations for additional funding in future years: N/A
 10. Funding available: Currently \$25,000 in previously allocated CPA funds.
 11. Priority set by Commission: Priority ranking not yet assigned by Commission

WEST CEMETERY IRON WORK

Dickinson Plot Fencing







Cutler Plot Fencing



Image from 2005

Current Condition of Fence-Summer 2010

